SENATOR THOMPSON: ...a loan forgiveness program, they're able
to not have to worry about that particular piece of debt that
they may have at that point. Another reason is, because during
their semester of student teaching, it's very difficult when
they're working full-time and still going to school to also be
working part-time or full-time in a private job outside of the
teaching that they're spending a lot of time on. And it's a
good idea to find a way to relieve the financial pressures for
that semester of their education.   And by having this loan
forgiveness program in place, they won't have to pay that...they
won't have that student loan...or, the money that they need to
pay that semester for tuition, because it would be part of a
loan. And that would give them more time to concentrate on
their student teaching. So I hope that you will keep this as
part of the bill. I'm going to argue this is a process,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: ...a process that we've been through, a bill
that passed with 44 yes votes, 1 no vote on Final Reading,...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Thompson.   (Visitors
introduced.) Senator Raikes on the Chambers amendment.

SENATOR RAIKES: Thank you, Mr. President and members.   I've
spoken to you on this issue before and I think you've kind of
let me know what you think up to this point, but I'm going to
continue anyway. I want to emphasize really a couple of things.
I hope it isn't the case, but the loan forgiveness appropriation
of $5.4 million may be the only money we have available this
year for teachers. If we commit this money in the manner
suggested here, it may mean that we're going to use all of the
available funds this year for other than our current teachers.
It means we're going to use it, or use part of it, for private
and parochial school teachers. It means that we're going to
commit state funds to a need that is already covered by the